

By the King.

A Proclamation prohibiting the bringing in of any

Commodities traded by the Eastland Merchants into this Kingdome, aswell by subiects as strangers, not free of that Company; with a publication of certaine Statutes for the restraint of all His Maiesties subiects from shipping any commodities in strangers bottomes, either into, or out of this Kingdome.



It is a great part of our Princely care, to maintaine and increase the trade of Our Merchants, and the strength of Our navy, The one being as the Veines whereby wealth is imported into Our estate, and the other as principall sinewes for the strength and service of Our Crowne and kingdome. whereas therefore the society and Company of Our Eastland Merchants, trading the Balticke Seas, haue by the space of forty yeeres past, at the least, had a settled and constant possession of trade in those parts, and haue had the sole bringing in of all the commodities of those countries, as namely, Hempe, Flaxe, Pot-ashes, Soape ashes, Polonia Wooll, Cordage, Pearne, Eastland linnen cloth, Pitch, Tarre, and Wood, whereby Our Kingdome hath bene much enriched, Our Shippes and Marriners set on worke, and the honour and fame of Our Nation and Kingdome spread and enlarged in those parts: And whereas, for further encouragement, the sayd Company haue had and enioyed by Letters Patents, vnder the great Seale of England, in the time of the late Queene Elizabeth, priuiledge for the sole bringing in of the sayd commodities, with generall prohibitions and restraints of others not licensed and authorized by the sayd Letters Patents, to traffique or trade contrary to the tenor of the same letters Patents; we, minding the vpholding and continuance of the sayd trade, and not to suffer that the sayd society shall sustaine any violation or diminution of their liberties and priuiledges, haue thought good to ratifie and publish vnto all persons, aswell subiects as strangers, the said priuiledges and restraints, to the end that none of them presume to attempt any thing against the same: And doe heereby straitely charge and command all Our Customers, Comptrollers, and all other Our Officers at the Ports, and also the Farmers of Our Customes and their Deputies and Wayters, That they suffer not any hempe, flaxe, pot-ashes, soape-ashes, Polonia Wooll, cordage, yarne, Eastland linnen cloth, pitch, tarre, or wood, nor any other commodities whatsoever, brought from any the forraine parts or regions wherein the sayd Company haue vsed to trade, to be landed, except onely such as shall be brought in by such as are free of the said Company: Provided alwaies, that the importation of cozne and graine be left free and without restraint; Any thing heerein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Furthermore, whereas there hath bene in ancient time diuers good and politicke Lawes, made against the shipping of merchandises in strangers bottomes, either inward or outward, as namely the Statutes of 5. Richard 2. 4. Henrici 7. 32. Henrici 8. &c. which Lawes of latter yeeres haue bene much neglected, to the great preiudice of the nauigation of Our kingdome; we doe straitely charge and command, that the sayd Lawes be from henceforth duly put in execution, vpon the paines therein contained, and vpon payne of Our high indignation and displeasure towards all Our Officers and Ministers, which shall be found slacke and remisse in procuring and assisting the due execution of the sayd Lawes.

Giuen at Our Court at Theobalds, the one and twentieth day of Iuly, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the sixe and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by BONHAM NORTON, and IOHN BILL,  
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

M. D C. XXII.